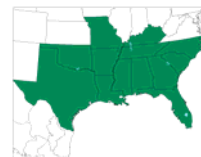


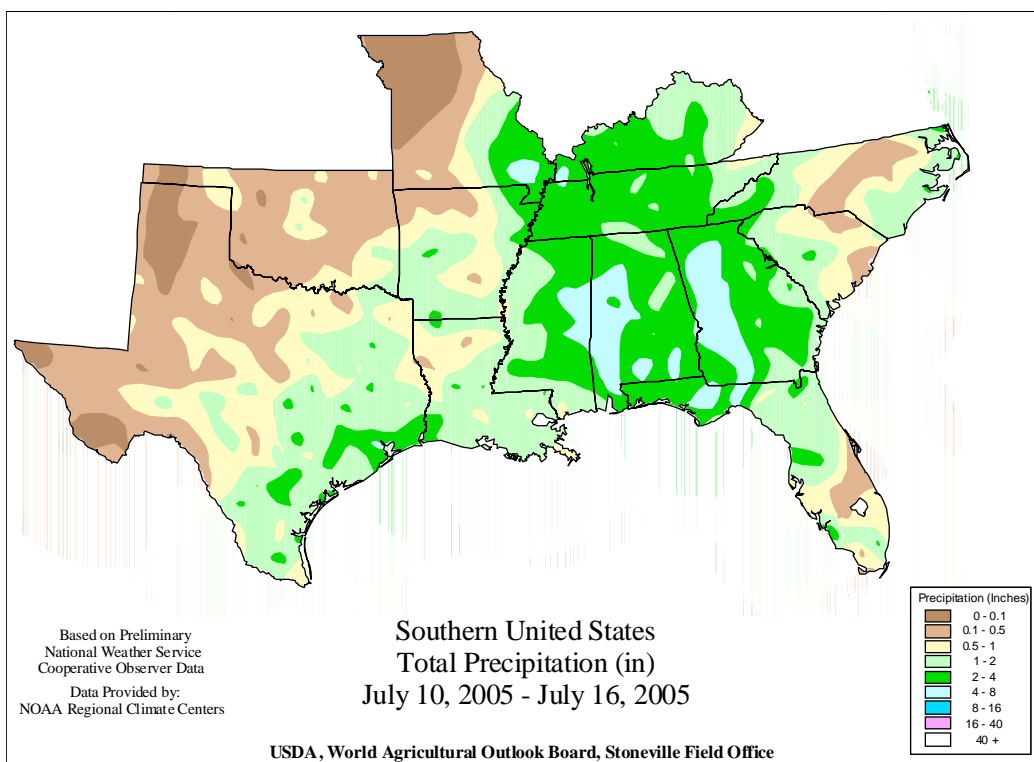


**Office of the Chief Economist
World Agricultural Outlook Board
Stoneville Field Office**



WEEKLY AGRICULTURAL WEATHER REPORT

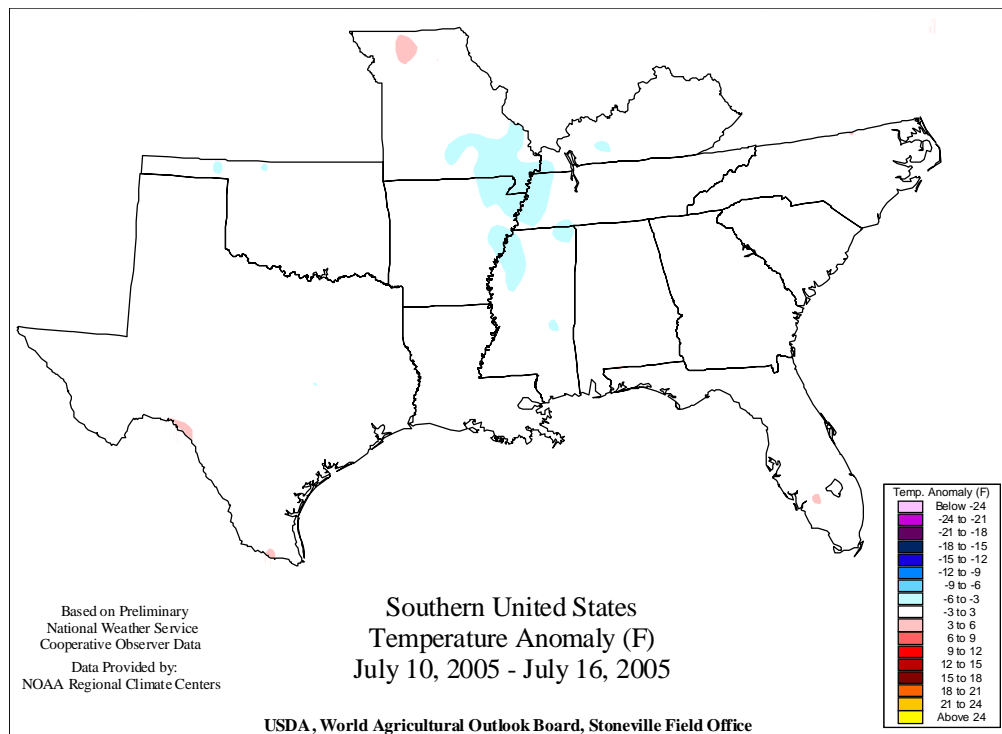
July 10 to July 16, 2005



Weather Highlights

Hurricane Dennis was the highlight of the week, causing heavy rainfall and flooding in parts of the Southeast. After making landfall in the west Florida panhandle on Sunday, July 10, Dennis tracked northwest through Alabama and Mississippi, and eventually stalled over the Ohio River Valley. Dennis made landfall as a category 3 hurricane, but the storm weakened rapidly as it moved inland. The storm produced 4 to 8 inches of rain in parts of Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, and across smaller portions of Missouri and Kentucky. Surrounding areas of those states also collected 2 to 4 inches of rainfall through the week. All of the southern states received rainfall this week, but isolated areas along the western boundaries of Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas remained dry. Eastern portions of those states received .50 to 2 inches of rainfall with locally greater amounts.

Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in most areas but 3 to 6 degrees F below normal in locations that had persistent cloud cover and rainfall associated with Dennis. In a small portion of northern Missouri that remained hot and dry, temperatures averaged 3 to 6 degrees F above normal.



The Mississippi Delta received rainfall several days during the week because of Dennis. Showers and thunderstorms redeveloped on many days producing rain amounts of 1 to 2 inches. No rainfall records occurred in the Delta, but a new record was set in Meridian, Mississippi, with 2.52 inches of rain on July 10, beating the old record of .19 inches in 2002. The persistent cloud cover kept the temperatures slightly cooler than normal over the week, and up to 3 to 6 degrees F below average in scattered locations. In addition to the locally heavy rain, Dennis produced high winds as it tracked east of the Delta. Winds gusted over 40 mph at times, reported in Washington and Attala counties, on Monday, July 11th.

(For additional information, contact Nancy Lopez at 662-686-3395)

Agricultural Summary

United States Crop Progress Report*					
Week Ending					
		July 17, 2005	July 10, 2005	July 17, 2004	2000-2004 Average
		Percent			
Cotton	Squaring	82	67	88	86
	Setting Bolls	35	22	46	45
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	60	58	68	---
Corn	Silking	49	25	47	41
	Dough	6	3	8	6
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	55	58	76	---
Rice	Headed	19	13	25	27
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	60	57	68	---
Soybeans	Blooming	63	43	56	50
	Setting Pods	16	6	15	13
	Percent (Good to Excellent)	53	54	68	---
*Source: USDA/National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS)					
"---" = Not Reported					

Cotton:

Bolls were setting on 35 percent of the acreage nationally, compared with 46 percent last year and 45 percent for the 5-year average. Crop conditions improved 2 points from last week to 60 percent rated good to excellent. Boll setting was most active in Mississippi, advancing 29 points from last week. Boll setting made good progress in Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, and North Carolina as well, all advancing 26 points since last week. Louisiana led all states with 75 percent of their crop setting bolls, followed by Arkansas and Mississippi with 73 and 67 percent setting bolls, respectively.

Corn:

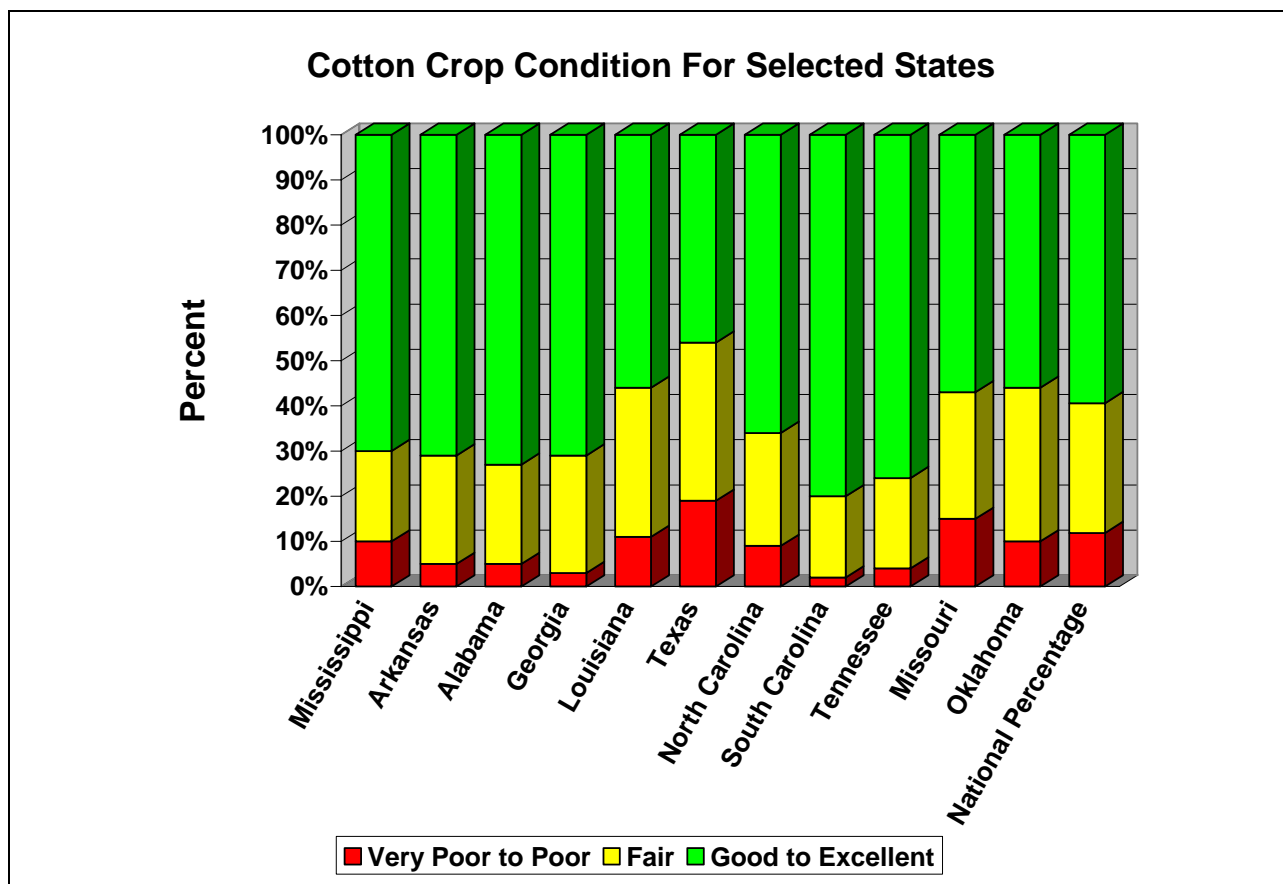
Silking advanced nationally to 49 percent complete, 2 points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-five percent of the crop was considered to be in good to excellent condition, down 3 points from last week. The southern states' corn crop was most advanced in Texas, with 32 percent mature and 5 percent harvested. In Louisiana, 17 percent of the crop was mature.

Rice:

Nationally, 19 percent of the acreage had headed, 6 points behind last year's pace and 8 points behind the 5-year average. Sixty percent of the crop was rated good to excellent, gaining 3 points from last week. Louisiana's crop was most advanced, at 64 percent headed, followed by Texas, at 61 percent headed. Mississippi continued to lead all states with 85 percent of their crop rated good to excellent.

Soybeans:

Sixty-three percent of the nation's crop was blooming, ahead of last year by 7 points and the 5-year average by 13 points. Crop conditions continued to decline as 53 percent of the crop was rated at a good to excellent condition, down 1 point from last week. Soybeans setting pods ranged from 80 percent of the acreage in Mississippi to no acres in North Carolina. Tennessee was most advanced compared to their 5-year average with 48 percent of the acreage setting pods, 36 points ahead of their 5-year average. All other southern states were also ahead of their 5-year average pace, except for Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Oklahoma.



Cotton Conditions by State:

Nationally, the cotton crop's condition improved 2 points to 60 percent rated good to excellent. In the South, South Carolina rated their crop the highest at 80 percent, followed by Tennessee at 76 percent of their respective crops rated good to excellent. Mississippi, at 70 percent, and Oklahoma, at 56 percent, reduced their good to excellent crop ratings by 13 and 11 points, respectively, from last week. Crop conditions in the other southern states improved from last week. Texas continued to have the lowest crop ratings at 46 percent of their crop rated good to excellent, up one point from last week.

(For additional information, contact Bart Freeland at 662-686-3280)